FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/29/68

JAMES WILLIAM LATCH, home address 3137 Overhaven, Memphis, Tennessee, Vice-president, LL & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at his place of business at which time he furnished the following information:

On April 4, 1968, he arrived at work at approximately 5:30 a.m. and stayed on the job, with the exception of lunch and possibly going to see one of his business associates, until 6:00 p.m.

LATCH advised that in his capacity as vice president he is continually dealing with the public [illegible] associates over the telephone and, therefore, does not have an exact recollection of just what transpired on that day. To the best of his knowledge, he does not remember discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting KING and emphatically denied having any knowledge of the activity of the person responsible for MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s death.

LATCH was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT, and failed to identify these photographs as being identical with any individual he knew.

LATCH advised it is not uncommon talk among employees in and around the produce company and other individuals in the Memphis area to discuss the comments of KING while he was in the Memphis, Tennessee, area. LATCH advised he may have made some general remarks regarding KING, especially since he felt the curfew in the Memphis area during KING's stay at Memphis, cost him approximately $40,000 to $50,000 in lost sales.

LATCH advised that he receives and makes numerous telephone calls and specifically denied any telephone call made mentioning the shooting of Dr. KING or of any reference to KING. He stated that he had no knowledge of the shooting of Dr. KING while at work at the produce company.

On 4/29/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-[illegible] 283

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK
SA ANDREW SLOAN:mjc:bb Date dictated 4/29/68

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LATCH advised that he had been in New Orleans, Louisiana, just before Christmas, 1967. He advised it is not unusual for him to travel in his capacity as vice president of a produce company to obtain various products in certain sections of the South. He left work at approximately 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, and feels certain he heard about the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., on his car radio although it is possible that if he stayed at work that day past 6:00 p.m. his sister or his wife may have telephonically contacted him as it is common for him to call these individuals just prior to leaving work. LATCH advised that he cannot be specific about his actions on April 4, 1968, inasmuch as he is continually on the go and is in constant contact with various individuals, many of whom are business people who are coming to him for the first time.

He reiterated he may have made disparaging remarks about KING, both prior to the shooting and after the [illegible] of KING, and stated he does not consider this to be unusual.

The following description of LATCH was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	JAMES WILLIAM LATCH
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
DOB:	October 10, 1933
POB:	Alcorn, Mississippi
Height:	6'
Weight:	205
Hair:	Sandy brown
Eyes:	Bluish gray
Scars and marks:	Scar on right side of neck
Vehicle:	Driven a 1968 Cadillac, [illegible] plates; 1968 Chevrolet Pickup truck Tennessee pl[illegible]
Military service:	U. S. Army, [redacted]
Weapons:	Cuno Browning shotgun, Italian Mau[illegible], and .22 [illegible]

[redacted]